

### **Childers Amendment to Restore Second Amendment Rights Passes in House**

September 17, 2008

Washington, DC – Today, the House passed important legislation introduced by Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) to protect Americans' Second Amendment rights. The Second Amendment Enforcement Act (H.R. 6691) was brought to the floor for consideration as a substitute to the National Capital Security and Safety Act (H.R. 6842) in an effort to restore D.C. gun owners' rights. H.R. 6691 passed with strong bipartisan support by a vote of 266-152.

"The Second Amendment is a fundamental right allowing Americans to defend themselves, and it is unconstitutional to deny any citizen this right," said Congressman Childers. "With the support of a bipartisan coalition of my colleagues, I introduced the Second Amendment Enforcement Act in July to restore the American right to bear arms for the citizens of Washington, D.C."

"I am incredibly proud to have had the opportunity to introduce this important legislation, and am honored that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle have joined me in defending a central tenet of the U.S. Constitution."

"While June's Supreme Court ruling and today's vote pertain to the citizens of D.C., they have also set a national precedent for all Americans' Second Amendment rights, and have helped ensure that these rights will be protected in the future."

The city of Washington, D.C. had imposed a gun ban on its residents since 1976. On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that D.C.'s firearms restrictions were an unconstitutional violation of the individual right to keep and own a firearm for self defense, a ruling that a majority of Members of Congress supported in an amicus curie brief filed in the case.

Despite the clear ruling of the Court, the D.C. Council passed legislation that continued to keep legal firearms out of the hands of law abiding citizens who want to purchase a gun for self defense in their home. A bipartisan coalition of Members drafted the Second Amendment Enforcement Act in an effort to provide legislation that implemented the Heller decision, and revised those provisions of D.C. law that conflicted with the Court's ruling.

Last week, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held hearings to discuss legislation that would implement the Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, including H.R. 6691. Its passage in the House followed a lengthy debate Tuesday night and a roll call vote this morning.

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